

Service Date: December 5, 2000

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

* * * * *

IN THE MATTER OF The Application of Cut)	UTILITY DIVISION
Bank Gas Company for Authority to Increase)	
Charges for Natural Gas Service)	DOCKET NO. D2000.11.194
)	INTERIM ORDER NO. 6307
)	

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Cut Bank Gas Company (Applicant) applied to this Commission for an order authorizing an increase in the rates Applicant charges for natural gas service. The application sought authority to increase rates in order to reflect all cost increases resulting from Montana Power Company's (MPC) Docket No. D2000.8.113.
2. On November 28, 2000, the Commission Order No. 6271b granted MPC an interim natural gas rate increase.
3. Order No. 6271b will result in higher purchased gas costs to Applicant.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Applicant is a "public utility" within the meaning of Section 69-3-101, MCA.
2. The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over the Applicant's Montana operations pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, MCA.
3. Section 69-3-304, MCA, provides in part, "The Commission may, in its discretion, temporarily approve increases or decreases pending a hearing or final decision."
4. The rate levels and spread approved herein are reasonable. The rebate provisions of Section 69-3-304, MCA, protect ratepayers in the event that any revenue authorized by this order are found to be unjustified in the final order in this Docket.

ORDER

1. Applicant is hereby granted interim relief reflecting Findings of Fact in this order.
2. Such relief is to become effective for services rendered on and after November 28, 2000, and remain in effect until such time as a final decision is reached in this matter.
3. The rates shall be collected upon a constant uniform cents per Mcf basis.
4. Interim revenues granted herein are subject to rebate should the final order in this Docket disapprove this interim revenue.

DONE IN WORK SESSION at Helena, Montana, this 28th day of November by a 5-0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

The original signed copy of this order is on file at the Commission's office.

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY MCCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

GARY FELAND, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See ARM 38.2.4806.

MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

* * * * *

I hereby certify that a copy of an INTERIM ORDER, ORDER NO. 6307, in DOCKET NO. D2000.11.194, in the matter of CUT BANK GAS COMPANY, dated November 28, 2000, has today been served on all parties listed on the Commission's most recent service list, updated, 11/30/00, by mailing a copy thereof to each party by first class mail, postage prepaid.

Date: December 5, 2000

Rachel Thompson
For The Commission

DOCKET

SERVICE

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